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Iskandarsyah, A.

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Breast cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the breast. As cancer is a chronic and frequently terminal disease, receiving a breast cancer diagnosis can be one of the most threatening negative events women ever experience and may lead to several psychological problems. Breast cancer has emerged as the most frequent cancer and the leading cause of death among Indonesian women. Although the incidence rate is lower than in developed countries, the case fatality rate from breast cancer is remarkably high. Similar with other developing countries, the poorer survival among Indonesian breast cancer patients seems largely due to late presentation of the disease and non-adherence to medical recommendations. Therefore, understanding which psychosocial factors are related to non-adherence in Indonesian women with breast cancer is urgently needed. In this thesis, results of qualitative and quantitative studies among 120 breast cancer patients at the Outpatient Surgical Oncology Clinic Hasan Sadikin Hospital Bandung and 122 healthy women from the Bandung area are presented.

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AULIA ISKANDARSYAH

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